

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Abu Dhabi defence firm signs MOU with India's HAL at UAE's defence expo ( Feb. 23, 2023 )**

**EDGE, UAE's leading defence group** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with India's aerospace firm **Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL)** on 22 February at the **International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX)**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The MoU pertains to the joint design and development of **missile systems and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones)**.
- The two businesses will discuss the use of HAL's small gas turbine engines on EDGE's guided missiles, EDGE's use of GPS jamming and spoofing devices on HAL's platforms, and the possibility of additional knowledge sharing.
- The two businesses will also examine ways to work together on the use of mission computers, training programs and additive manufacturing of metal parts in India.

#### **UAE Defence Expo**

- It was held February 20-24. This is the **UAE's flagship defence expo**.
- IDEX-UAE is internationally recognized as a strategically important **tri-services defence exhibition**.
- Amid the Russia-Ukraine war, the main focus of this edition of IDEX in the UAE is on **drones, robotics, cyber security platforms, maritime security, air defence systems** and more on secure communications.
- It showcases the state-of-the-art technology available globally in the **defence sector**.

### **2. Vedanta-Foxconn selects Dholera SIR for first semiconductor facility in India ( Feb. 23, 2023 )**

On 20 February **Vedanta and manufacturing giant Foxconn** announced that it is setting up a **semiconductor and display manufacturing facility** in the **Dholera Special Investment Region near Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The Vedanta-Foxconn in September 2022 signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Gujarat government to invest **₹1,54,000 crore** to set up semiconductor and display manufacturing plant.
- It is the **first semiconductor manufacturing facility in India**.
- The project is in the advanced stage of appraisal by the Government of India.

- The Joint Venture would invest ₹1,54,000 crore to set up the facility in Gujarat, which would create **one lakh job opportunities**.
- The Gujarat government will provide cooperation to set up the facility and to make it a success.
- The project is likely to get **huge subsidies and incentives**, such as **zero stamp duty** on land purchase and subsidised **water and electricity**, under the '**Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-27**' announced by the state government in July 2022.
- **Gujarat has become the first state in the country** to have such a dedicated policy for the semiconductor and display fabrication sector.

### **Vedanta Group**

- It is a multinational company headquartered in **London, England**.
- Vedanta Limited is an **Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources**, which is the holding company of Vedanta Group.
- It is in the business of **Zinc-Lead-Silver, Iron ore, Steel, Copper, Aluminum, Power, Oil and Gas**.
- The Chairman of Vedanta group: **Anil Aggarwal**

### **3. Seattle becomes first US city to ban caste discrimination ( Feb. 23, 2023 )**

**Seattle City became the first US city to ban caste discrimination** on February 21, and the **first in the world** to pass such a law outside South Asia.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The **anti-discrimination law**, passed 6-1, states that caste-based discrimination transcends **national and religious boundaries** and without such a law, those who face caste discrimination would not be protected.
- A proposal was introduced by a **Hindu representative in Seattle's City Council (City Council)**, which sparked a debate among people of Indian origin.
- There has also been a division among the **South Asian community** regarding this.
- The people of this community are few in number, but they are seen as an influential group.
- This step is being considered important in the direction of bringing **social justice and equality**.
- On the other hand, some people are opposing it, alleging that the purpose of this proposal is to **target the people of South Asia**, especially Indian Americans.

#### **4. MEA's annual flagship event Asia Economic Dialogue begins in Pune ( Feb. 23, 2023 )**

**External Affairs Ministry's** annual flagship event on Geoeconomics, **Asia Economic Dialogue** began on 23 February in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

##### **An overview of the news**

- It is being hosted in association with the **Pune International Center** from February 23-25.
- The main theme of the dialogue is '**Asia and the Emerging World Order**'.
- The dialogue will also discuss topics such as **Global Growth Prospects, How the Global South Will Shape the G20 Agenda and the Metaverse**.
- The inaugural session began with talks between External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, **H.E. Leonpo Namgye Tshering**, Minister of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan and **H.E. Ibrahim Ameer**, Minister of Finance of Maldives.
- More than 44 speakers from different countries including **Brazil, USA, UK, South Africa, Bhutan, Maldives, Switzerland, Singapore and Mexico** are participating in this dialogue.

##### **Asia Economic Dialogue (AED)**

- The **Asia Economic Dialogue (AED)** is the External Affairs ministry's annual event and is hosted in collaboration with the Pune International Centre.
- It is the flagship **geo-economics conference**.
- The dialogue focuses on the dynamics of trade and finance in Asia and its neighbouring countries.

#### **5. Namami Gange Executive Committee approves 9 projects worth over 1,200 crore rupees ( Feb. 23, 2023 )**

The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** held the **47th meeting of the Executive Committee** of NMCG on 22nd February under the chairmanship of **G. Ashok Kumar, Director General, NMCG**.

##### **An overview of the news**

- **Nine projects worth about Rs 1278 crore** were approved in the meeting.
- **7 of them** pertain to **abatement of pollution in the Ganges basin** and **2 pertain to development of ghats**.
- Project in **West Bengal** worth Rs 123 crore approved.

- In **Uttar Pradesh**, three projects worth Rs 422 crore were approved.
- In UP for **rejuvenation of River Kali East** by development of in-situ Constructed Wetland System at 8 locations in Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Hapur and Bulandshahar was approved costing **Rs 95.47 crore**.
- **In Bihar**, one project for the development of Atal Ghat Manjhi, Saran was approved at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore.
- **In Madhya Pradesh** a major project costing Rs 511 crore was approved.
- For the monitoring of industrial pollution, a project titled '**Pollution Inventorization, Assessment and Surveillance on River Ganga Basin**' was approved at an estimated cost of Rs 114.42 crore.

### **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**

- It was registered on **12 August, 2011** as a society under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It serves as the implementing arm of the **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)**, which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986**.
- It was established to address pollution challenges in the **Ganga river**.
- The operational area of the project covers the Ganga basin and all the states through which the river flows, including Delhi.
- The objective is to reduce pollution and ensure rejuvenation of the Ganga river.

### **6. Indian Council of Agricultural Research developed new variety of wheat named HD-3385 ( Feb. 23, 2023 )**

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has developed a **new variety of wheat** which is '**HD-3385**'.

#### **An overview of the news**

- It is capable of meeting the challenges arising due to **climate change and rising heat**.
- This new variety is suitable for **early sowing**. It can survive the wrath of heat and its crop can be harvested **before the end of March**.
- The Central Government had recently announced setting up of a committee to monitor the situation arising out of rise in temperature and its impact on the current wheat crop.
- ICAR has registered the news variety HD-3385 with the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA)**.

- ICAR has also granted a license to Bioseed owned by **DCM Shriram Limited** to conduct multi-location trials and seed multiplication.

### **About Indian Council of Agricultural Research**

- It is an **autonomous body** formerly known as the **Imperial Council of Agricultural Research**.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Established - **1929**
- The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president. Presently its president is **Narendra Singh Tomar**.
- ICAR is the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world.

### **7. University of Auckland, Tata Memorial Hospital sign MoU for cancer care ( Feb. 22, 2023 )**

**Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai and Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on 22 February to engage in long-term **cooperation in cancer care**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- Tata Memorial Hospital is the **largest and the most renowned cancer care hospital** and research centre in India.
- The University's Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Professor **Frank Bloomfield** met TMH representatives led by TMH Director **Dr Rajendra Badwe and Professor Dr Vanita Noronha**.
- The MoU aims to explore ways to enhance **cancer care using digital health**.
- The two countries have a long history of cooperation in healthcare and this partnership builds on an already strong relationship.
- The University of Auckland is strongly committed to finding solutions to some of the most pressing global health issues in partnership with leading institutions.

### **8. Cabinet approves the extension of the term of the Twenty-second Law Commission of India ( Feb. 22, 2023 )**

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the extension of the tenure of the **22nd Law Commission of India** which has been **extended till August 31, 2024**.

#### **22nd Law Commission**

- The Union ministry of Law and Justice constituted the **22nd Law Commission** on 7 November 2022 and appointed former Karnataka High court chief justice **Rituraj Awasthi** as the **chairperson** of the Law Commission.
- The **five member** 22nd Law Commission will have a term of **three years**.
- Justice **BS Chauhan** was the chairman of the **21st Law Commission** whose term expired in August 2018.

### **Other members**

- Former Kerala High Court judge Justice **KT Sankaran, Prof. Anand Paliwal, Prof. DP Verma, Prof.(Dr) Raka Arya and M Karunanithi** have been appointed members of the Law Commission.

### **Law Commission of India**

- Law commission is a **non-statutory body** which is set up by the **Union Ministry of Law and Justice** for suggesting reform in laws in India.
- Its recommendations are **not binding on the government**.
- The provision for the Law commission was made in the **Charter act 1833** and the first Law commission was set up in **1834** under the chairmanship of **Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay**.
- The **Indian Penal Code 1860** is based on the recommendation of the **Macaulay commission**.
- The First Law commission in Independent India was **set up in 1955** and **M.C Setalvad** who was also the first Attorney General of India was the chairman of the Law Commission.

## **9. Cabinet approves Air Services Agreement between India and Guyana ( Feb. 22, 2023 )**

**Union Cabinet** on 22 February approved the signing of the **Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and Guyana**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The Air Services Agreement will come into force after the **exchange of Diplomacy Notes**.
- The Diplomacy Notes shall confirm that both sides have completed the necessary internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement.
- The signing of the Air Services Agreement with Guyana will create a framework for the provision of air services between the two countries.

- The agreement will give a boost to the aviation market and aviation sector in India.
- To strengthen international air connectivity, India has so far signed air service agreements with many countries.
- India and Guyana are signatories to the Convention on **International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)**.
- There is a significant Indian presence in Guyana and according to the 2012 census **Indians constitute about 40% of the population.**

### **What is an Air Services Agreement?**

- Air Services Agreement (ASA) provides the **legal framework** for air operations between two countries.
- It is based on the sovereignty of the nations, the nationality of the carriers and the commercial opportunity for each side's designated airlines.
- Prior to this there was no Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Guyana.

### **About Guyana**

- Prime Minister: **Mark Phillips**
- President: **Mohamed Irfaan Ali**
- Capital: **Georgetown**
- Currency : Guyanese dollar (G\$)

### **10. Nitin Gadkari lays Foundation Stone of the world's largest and unique Divyang Park ( Feb. 22, 2023 )**

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** on 20 February laid the Foundation Stone of the **world's largest and unique Divyang Park - Anubhuti Inclusive Park in Nagpur, Maharashtra.**

#### **An overview of the news**

- This park is being developed keeping in mind the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi **to build an inclusive society.**
- Instead of sympathy, this park will show empathy, hence this park has been named **Anubhuti Divyang Park.**
- **In 2016**, the central government passed the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act** for the rights of persons with disabilities.
- This law gives the disabled the **right to live with dignity.**

### **About Anubhuti Inclusive Park**

- This park is being built for disabled children and common citizens in **Pardi campus of Nagpur.**
- Its purpose is to give the message of **inclusion in the country and the whole world.**
- It is the **world's first inclusive disabled park.**
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- The park will have adapted facilities for all **21 types of disabilities**, including touch and smell gardens, hydrotherapy units, water therapy, independent rooms for mentally challenged children, etc.